

REMARKS

Claims 25-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 24 is canceled without prejudice, and claims 25-32 are amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by taking the allowable subject matter; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and indicated to contain allowable subject matter; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 25 is allowed and claims 27, 30, and 31 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, allowed claim 25 is amended to further specify that the first and second channel regions are formed on a same crystal grain. This feature is supported, for example, in Applicant's paragraph [0069]. No new issues are raised as claim 25 has already been indicated to be allowed and this feature has been discussed throughout prosecution.

II. Pending Claims 25-32 Define Patentable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 24, 26, 28, 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0132483A1 to Yamazaki, or alternatively in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0117736 to Yamazaki or U.S. Patent No. 6,617,644 to Yamazaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 24 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Additionally, allowable dependent claims 27, 30 and 31 are rewritten

into independent form, and to also include the recitation that the first and second channel regions are formed on a same crystal grain. Dependent claims 26, 28, 29 and 32 are amended to depend from allowable claim 27. Accordingly, claims 26-32 are allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of pending claims 25-32 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SPC/jnm

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: February 6, 2007

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